

Forgotten Flames of Bravery: Unsung Heroes of India's Struggle for Freedom

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Abstract

Every Individual in India knows about a country's struggle story for freedom. India was ruled by several European powers from time to time, i.e., Portuguese, Dutch, English, Danish and France. The most recent rulers were the British rulers, and they ruled for a long time. Indian freedom fighters had a dream of removing British rule. The Indian freedom fighters were the brave-hearted souls who did not think twice about sacrificing themselves and liberating us from the British rule. It is because of these brave souls that we are living happily and peacefully in an independent nation, so as a responsible citizen it is our duty to discuss these freedom fighters who fought our future. There were possibly thousands of unsung Heroes of the freedom movement in India. Thus, India's independence would not have been possible without sacrifices and struggles made by freedom fighters. Aside From Subhash Chandra Bose, Mahatma Gandhi, Bhagat Singh, Rani Laxmi Bai, many hidden gems have given their lives to make our nation free from the British Raj.

Keywords

Freedom movement, Freedom fighters, Empowerment, India's heroes, Sacrifices.

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Introduction

The term 'Freedom fighter' refers to all those great heroes who made immense contributions to achieve independence from the Britishers. The freedom and independence that we enjoy today are the fruit of the struggle and suffering of India's freedom fighters. India's freedom is not acquired and begged, but it is the consequences of freedom fighters struggle and sacrifices. Thousand of them even sacrificed their lives to free India from the clutches of the brutal British Raj. The freedom Heroes did not only played an important role in independence, but also maintained a legacy of courage, and unlimited love for the Nation. They still motivate every citizen of India even in the dead to defend and maintain our Priceless Liberty . Freedom fighters made sacrifices that one cannot even think of doing for their loved ones. We can't explain their pain, hardships, tolerance and sacrifices in words. The Nation will always be indebted to them for their sacrifice. We are celebrating Independence Day because of these brave-hearted freedom fighters. We can't deny their role in independence No matter how small a role they played, they are very much important today as they were in those days. Moreover, they rebelled against the British Raj to stand up for the country's unity, integrity and freedom. India Furthermore, most of the freedom fighters even went toward safeguarding the freedom of their people. It did not matter that they had no training; they did it for the pure intention of making their country free. Most of the freedom fighters sacrificed their lives in the war for independence. Most importantly, freedom fighters inspired and motivated others to fight injustice. They are the pillars behind the freedom movement. They made people aware of their rights and their power. It is all because of the freedom fighters that we prospered into a free country free from any kind of colonizers or injustice. We know some famous freedom fighters like Sardar Patel, Mangal Pandey, Nana Shahab and . Rani Laxmi Bai. But thousands of variant unsung freedom fighters who gave their everything disappeared from the books of history. But today, you will know about some of these heroes and understand their significant contributions.

Peer Ali Khan (1812-1857)

Peer Ali Khan was an Indian rebel who fought against the British Rule. He was born in Azamabad district of Bihar in 1820. Ali Khan participated in the Great Revolt of 1857. He was a bookseller by profession and acquired proficiency in Arabic, Urdu and Persian languages. Peer Ali Khan persuaded Moulvi Mohamadi, a British officer, to help him procure weapons, with which he organized an attack on the British Army Camp. Angered by this incident of Peer Ali, British officers arrested him with other members. The trial of this case of Peer Alik was recorded in

history as the 'Patna Conspiracy Case'. Peer Ali Khan and some of his followers were hanged to death by William Taylor, the then Patna Commissioner. During the trial Moulana Peer Ali Khan was tortured to extract information but he didn't speak even a single word from his mouth

Kotwal Dhan Singh Gurjar (1814-1857)

When we discuss the **unsung freedom fighters of India**, Dhan Singh Gurjar's name should always be mentioned. He was the head of the police station in Meerut during the first war of independence. When the revolt broke out and the sepoys were jailed, the locals marched in fury toward the police station. Dhan Singh, along with his fellow policemen, joined the movement and freed the soldiers. Dhan Singh was considered the chief accused in these activities and was given a death sentence. The British, fuelled by vengeance, also attacked Dhan Singh's village and murdered hundreds of people. His statue now stands in the same police station where he served as a Kotwal almost two centuries ago.

Gangu Mehtar (1859)

The kindhearted and brave boy Gangu Baba was born in Bithoor village of Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh in a Dalit family. When the British marched on Bithoor, on 19 July 1857, fired cannons and tried to capture Nana Saheb's fort. In this fight, Gangu Babu bravely fought against the British army. He was a revolutionary who joined Nana Saheb Peshwa's army to help him and is said to have killed around 150 Britishers troops. This incident made Britishers angry and finally they issued a circular to arrest Gangu dead or alive. After Gangu was arrested by the Britishers he was tied to a horse and dragged up to Kanpur, where he was hanged with rope in Chunniganj.

Bhikaiji Cama (1861-1936)

Bhikaiji was a prominent figure in the Indian struggle for freedom from the British Raj. She is also known as the 'Mother of the Indian Revolution' and founded the Paris Indian Society. Bhikaiji Cama spoke about the devastating effects of British Colonialism in Germany. She became the first person to hoist the Indian flag on foreign soil at Stuttgart in Germany. She also fought for Gender discrimination and Gender equality. And to support orphanage girls, she donated most of her assets. Being an Indian ambassador, she traveled to Germany in 1907, hoisting the India.

Matangini Hazra (1870-1942)

One of the prominent female freedom fighters of India, she rallied thousands of women to take over a police station at the age of 73, during which she was shot and succumbed to her injuries in the process. She was an extraordinary Indian unsung

freedom fighter and participated in the Independence Movement of India. Much is not known about Matangini Hazra's life. She was affectionately known as Gandhi Buri as she was greatly influenced by the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi. She selflessly dedicated her entire life to the country's welfare and freedom. She was shot dead by the British Indian Force in front of the Tamluk Police station in September 1942. As she was repeatedly shot by police forces she kept chanting Vande Mataram and continued to hold the flag until her last breath

She was active in the independence movements throughout her life and sacrificed herself while doing the same. Age didn't stop her from marching fearlessly in front of armed policemen.

Birsa Munda (1875-1900)

Birsa Munda is one of the famous names for the people living in Bihar and Jharkhand. He was born on Thursday, so his name Birsa was kept after it. He died at the very young age of 25 years, but his remarkable achievements make our nation feel proud. He was a leader of tribal people who lived in modern states Bihar and Jharkhand and headed the millenarian movement to inspire these people to stand against British rulers in the late 19th century.

Khudiram Bose (1889-1908)

There Are numerous freedom fighters or revolutionaries who sacrificed their lives and put their all for the sake of freedom and unity of India. Khudiram Bose was only 18 years old when he was given a death sentence for his attempt to assassinate a British Judge Magistrate Kingsford. At the time of his death, he was holding Bhagavad Gita. He was the youngest martyr in the history of the struggle for the Indian Independence Movement.

Kartar Singh Sarabha (1896-1915)

Unknown to many, Kartar Singh Sarabha is another very influential freedom fighter in India. He was the youngest revolutionary who sacrificed his life at the age of 19.. His story influenced many revolutionaries, including Bhagat Singh. Kartar Singh was only 17 years old when he joined the Ghadar Party, which was formed in Oregon, USA by Punjabi expatriates to overthrow the British from India. He was the editor of a weekly newspaper Gadar in San Francisco. He returned to India to organize soldiers against the British. He was captured before any revolt was executed for conspiring against the British Raj. He laid down his life in the service of the nation.

Ram Prasad Bismil (1897-1927)

You may have heard his famous poem, 'Sarfaroshi ki tammana, Ab hamare dil me hai', but you may not necessarily know the revolutionary who wrote it, Ram

Prasad Bismil. Fluent in both Hindi and Urdu, Bismil was a great poet who used his writing to convey the message of freedom. He planned the famous Kakori train robbery, in which a train carrying money was looted. Along with a few others, he organized the HINDUSTAN SOCIALIST REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION (HSRA), an organization that sought freedom from the British through an armed rebellion. His actions inspired many to join the organization, and his writings sing the song of freedom even today. When we talk about the unsung freedom fighters of India, Bismil's name should always be included.

Komaram Bheem (1900-1940)

Komaram Bheem would be born on 22nd October 1901 in Hyderabad. He was a brave warrior and leader. He hailed from the Gond tribal community and fought against the oppression of tribal people at a very young age. Komaram Bheem was an uneducated person and had no interaction or exposure to the exterior world. He was highly inspired by Shaheed Bhagat Singh's ideologies and contributions to his motherland. He gave birth to the slogan "Jal, Jungle, Jameen" which indicates forest community should have full rights to all the resources of the forest. He also led a rebellion or revolt against the Nizams of Hyderabad in which he was killed. He is worshipped by the Gond Adivasi Community and is often praised in folk songs.

Kamala Devi Chattopadhyay (1903-1988)

She was a social reformer and distinguished theatre actor. She was the first woman of India whom British rulers arrested for her active presence as a patriotic leader. Kamala Devi was a fearless woman who was a committed freedom fighter. She worked to improve women's social and economic conditions in India and participated in Salt Satyagraha in 1930. Also, she was the first lady candidate for the Legislative Assembly. Kamala Devi played a significant role in establishing the All India Women's Conference.

Conclusion

Independence didn't come to us easily; when we say this in the Indian context, it seems like an understatement. This is because there are just too many sacrifices made by the **freedom fighters of India**, heard and unheard, from every sect and strata of Indian society to count. The history behind the present picture of Independent India is too many sacrifices and contributions made by the brave freedom fighters who selflessly jumped into the battle to make India free from British rule. These freedom fighters are from every section and corner of Indian society. Regrettably, the present generation is unaware of the names of many freedom fighters who gifted independent India by sacrificing their lives.

The main purpose behind this paper is to recall and to pay tribute to the forgotten brave-hearted Hero and Heroines of the Indian Independence Movement. This paper serves as a medium of inspiration and encouragement for the future generations.. We should appreciate and regard the efforts and contributions of the unsung brave and courageous freedom fighters.

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